

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is requested. Claims 1-11 are in this application.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-11 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Dark et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,563,189). For the reasons set forth below, applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Claim 1 recites:

"A method of processing a semiconductor material having a top surface and a bottom surface, the method comprising the steps of:

"forming a doped region in the top surface of the semiconductor material;

"forming a hole in the semiconductor material that extends through the semiconductor material, the hole having substantially anisotropic side walls; and

"forming a metallic plug in the hole.

In rejecting the claims, the Examiner pointed to the formation of doped region 104 shown in FIGS. 1A-1F of Dark as constituting the "forming a doped region" element of claim 1. Since the doped region required by claim 1 must be formed in the top surface of the semiconductor material, doped region 104 of Dark must be read to be formed in the top surface of the semiconductor material. Therefore, the semiconductor material of claim 1 must be read to include the material the lies below doped region 104.

In further rejecting the claims, the Examiner pointed to the formation of openings 112a, 112b, and 112c shown in FIG. 1B of Dark as constituting the "forming a hole" element of claim 1. However, as shown in FIG. 1B of Dark, it is not possible for openings 112a, 112b, and 112c to extend through the semiconductor material as required by claim 1 because openings 112a, 112b, and 112c do not extend through any portion of the material that lies below doped region 104. As a

result, the formation of openings 112a, 112b, and 112c can not be read to be the "forming a hole" element of claim 1.

Thus, since the formation of openings 112a, 112b, and 112c can not be read to be the required "forming a hole" element, claim 1 is not anticipated by the Dark reference. In addition, since claims 2-11 depend either directly or indirectly from claim 1, claims 2-11 are not anticipated by the Dark reference for the same reasons as claim 1.

Thus, for the foregoing reasons, it is submitted that all of the claims are in a condition for allowance. Therefore, the Examiner's early re-examination and reconsideration are respectively requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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